

# Copaxone® 40 mg/mL

glatiramer acetate

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Copaxone 40 mg/mL.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor and pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Copaxone 40 mg/mL is used for

Copaxone 40 mg/mL is used for the management of relapsing forms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Copaxone may also be used in patients who, for the first time, have experienced symptoms and have MRI changes that indicate a high risk for development of MS. Your doctor will rule out any other reasons which could explain these symptoms before you are treated.

The cause of MS is not yet known. MS affects the brain and spinal cord. In MS, the body's immune system reacts against its own myelin (the 'insulation' surrounding nerve fibres). In relapsing forms of MS, people can have 'exacerbations' from time to

time (eg, blurred vision, weakness in the legs or arms, or loss of control of bowel or bladder function). These are followed by periods of recovery.

Although the exact mechanism of how Copaxone works in MS is unknown, it is thought that Copaxone works by changing the immune processes that are believed to be responsible for the disease.

Copaxone has been shown to be effective in reducing the number of relapses in patients with relapsing remitting MS. Although it is not a cure, patients treated with Copaxone generally find that they will experience fewer relapses.

Your doctor, however, may prescribe Copaxone 40 mg/mL for another purpose.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you.**

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you use it

#### When you must not use it

**Do not use Copaxone if you are allergic to it or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Some symptoms of an allergic reaction include skin rash, itching, shortness of breath or swelling of the face, lips or tongue, which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

**Do not give Copaxone to children.**

There is no experience with its use in children under 12 years of age.

**Do not use it after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack.**

If you use it after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

**Do not use it if the packaging is damaged or shows signs of tampering.**

#### Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:

- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

Like most medicines of this kind, Copaxone is not recommended to be used during pregnancy. You should discuss with your doctor contraceptive options. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using it if you are pregnant.

**Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.**

It is not known whether Copaxone passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using it if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.

**Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- asthma
- a history of severe allergic reactions